

Letter actually handwritten,
but was delivered in November

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Your Majesty:

The avowed intentions of the Axis powers to dominate Your Majesty's Empire are a secret to no one. They, I know, are the source of the gravest preoccupation on the part of your Government.

During the months that have elapsed since the tragic events of 1940 your country and people have been called upon to pay a staggering burden of tribute exacted by the brutal powers of aggression profiting by their initial victory. The German and Italian lust for booty has reached into every phase of Moroccan life, paralyzing its activity, ruining its merchants and farmers and depriving its brave population of the barest necessities of life.

The Axis aggressors seek to impose on North Africa a scheme of permanent political and military domination. The disadvantages of that program as compared with the ideals and freedoms and economic benefits set forth in the Atlantic Charter is obvious to you and the Moroccan population.

The evil aggressor is not satisfied with the organized looting of your country which has been conducted under the cloak of requisition and purchase with French money exacted as tribute. That money cannot purchase for your people, in return for their wheat, barley, wool, and minerals even articles of the barest necessity. The Axis powers now plan to crush your Empire by military force and violence.

Our common interest buttressed as it is by a long tradition of friendship dating from the time of George Washington, the first President of the United States of America, to whom your noble predecessor gave as a mark of personal affection the building which houses the American Legation in Tangier, dictates our joint action in the face of a common foe.

It is needless of me to assure Your Majesty that the arrival of American forces in your country in collaboration with forces of the Protecting Power is merely a token of American intention to assist in defending your sovereignty and in protecting your country and mine against a common enemy whose power will be destroyed. I propose that this foe be driven from the shores of Africa, the springboard from whence the movement of liberation of oppressed peoples will be launched.

Our victory will, I know, inaugurate a period of peace and prosperity during which the Moroccan people will flourish and thrive in a manner which benefits their glorious past and be pleasing to God.

May God have Your Majesty in his safe and holy keeping.

Your good friend,

Franklin D. Roosevelt.

State Dept. review completed

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An English translation of French rendition of the letter of the Sultan of Morocco, written to the President of the United States

Palace of His Majesty the Sultan
Secretariat

REPLY OF HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

We were happy to receive your letter and your telegraphic message which came to us successively to express your friendship and to reinforce the friendly relations which had existed for a long time between the United States and Morocco.

After the Armistice of June, 1940, we made an agreement with the representative of France in Morocco to defend our Empire against any and all aggressors in order to prevent its occupation. When the American troops arrived in Morocco, honor forced upon us the duty of defending ourselves in order that we might live up to our agreements. The limited means at our disposal were insufficient to permit us to defend our Empire against forces superior both in numbers and in material. However, when the cessation of hostilities had been ordered and the commanders of your troops affirmed that they did not come as conquerors but as liberators, when they had given us tangible proof of their friendly methods, we had faith in their agreements. All of the inhabitants of this country have received them as friends. Furthermore, Morocco has no disagreement with the great nation of the United States, whose chivalrous and liberal principles are known to us. It is therefore in the above spirit that we declared to Major General Patton that as long as our prestige, our soil, our religion and our traditions were respected by your troops, they could rest assured that they found in Morocco only friends and collaborators.

The first contacts between peoples who do not know each other well enough are always marked by hesitation and reticence, but progressively as reciprocal understanding is established between them, they are followed by esteem and friendship which creates a cooperative effort profitable to all.

Such has been the Franco-Moroccan collaboration which has been so rich in happy results for the prosperity and grandeur of Morocco. We are sure that the same will result from contact with the United States of America, for whom we have always had the greatest sympathy and with whom we have for many years had important commercial dealings.

It is in this hope Mr. President, that we pray you to believe in our sincere friendship.

With best wishes for your personal happiness and for the greatness of your glorious country.

(signed) Mohammed ben Youssef

Done at our Capital, Rabat
The 8th day of the Month of Dhou El-Kaada
In the Year 1361 (1942)